McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AN ILLINOIS CORPORATION (not for profit)

6422 Main Street, Union, Illinois 60180

Telephone: 815-923-2267

TRACER

Prepared by: Gwendolyn Danner, Lucille Maguire, Thresile Mulvenna.

VOLUME V - No. 4 Newsletter Spring, May 1979

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!

Once again it is time for our annual meeting! The board of directors hopes you are already planning on coming and The Tracer would like to tell you a little of what is being planned for "that day in June"--the tenth, to be exact. The Museum will be open at one p.m. so that you may look about a bit before the program begins. There will be reports from the officers of the society, including Shuji Kimura, President; Nancy Fike, Co-president; Dorothy McEachren, President Emeritus; and Ruth Cripe, Treasurer. Also, it is at this meeting that the board of directors is elected.

We have secured a speaker for the afternoon we hope you will all enjoy. This is Professor Robert W. McCluggage, chairman of the History Department at Loyola University of Chicago. The professor took his undergraduate work at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri and received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He wrote the book, History of Dental Associations, and has authored innumerable articles for Historical Reviews and Quarterlies.

As a speaker he is already well-known in McHenry County, having spoken at the Huntley Bi-centennial celebration; he talked at the Woodstock Opera House on the Indians of this area; and spoke at the Harvard Women's Club Spring Luncheon. He is best known in the Harvard area, of course, as the president of the Greater Harvard Area Historical Society, an office he is filling for the second time.

He will speak on the Roots of the Historical Society in McHenry County.

Following the meeting there will be a social hour with refreshments.

OTHER MEETINGS BEING PLANNED

We will include in our "meetings" category, the Sundays on which there will be programs. Although it will be past when The Tracer is received by the members, we cannot pass over the Crystal Lake Day on April 29th in Crystal Lake. The program is to be most interesting, with a display of Crystal Lake memorabilia and artifacts. Mr. Shuji Kimura will show his slides of the places of historic interest in the Lake area and tell about these sites as only he can. It is hoped that this innovation of taking a quarterly membership meeting to an area other than the Museum will have met with great success.

Then on May sixth, the Museum will be open. Just for this one day, admissions will be free to all. There will be no supplemental program.

On May thirteenth, Huntley will attempt to repeat their triumph of 1978. They very well might because they have secured the Bell choir from the Huntley Congregational Church, the Huntley Harvester 4-H club which won the talent contest, and will have a display of old trucks from the Dean Milk Company. They are also planning a sheep shearing contest.

On May nineteenth, the long awaited Marengo Historical Tour will take place in that city. This is a joint effort of the McHenry County Historical Society and the Marengo Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 129. There will be five houses open to the public, and nine others which can be seen from the outside by following the map. The six that will be open are the Cupola House, owned by Francis and Mary Muzzy, built in 1846. This house has been a landmark in Marengo longer than the oldest resident can remember. It is famous for its octagonal rooms, its spiral walnut staircase and its cupola. It is believed to have been a stop on the underground railroad, with a sandstone tunnel leading to a secret room under the front lawn.

The Dawes house, built in the 1860s, was owned by William Abbott, Marengo' first undertaker who sold to John W. Usborn in 1888. Mr. Usborn, still remembered by older Marengo residents was a funeral director in Marengo for more than fifty years.

Forest Hill Manor, owned by Chief and Mrs. Westergren is the merger of the Ernest Robb house with another early Marengo homestead. The Robb house was built in 1852 and saved from demolition when it was moved across town and returned to its former magnificence.

The Robinson House is a newcomer compared to the other four homes, not having been built until 1904. Now owned by Rev. Kenneth and Evelyn Robinson, it was built as the Presbyterian Manse and has housed no less than sixteen different ministers and their families up until the time the Robinsons bought it in 1969.

Built in 1840, the Piper House is Italianate in Architecture. This is the house that has the child's grave in the basement. The tombstone reads: George W. Robinson, Born: September 22, 1854; Died: September 8, 1855.

Tickets for this tour are five dollars for adults, two and a half for children, and senior citizens four dollars. Lunch can be bought for one dollar and a quarter in the upper level of City Hall. There will be bus service to tour these sites and if you wish to avail yourself of this service, it is free.

MORE SUNDAYS

May twentieth, Shuji Kimura will present the program on the Dole mansion he has already done for some clubs. This will be at the museum, and those people who have seen any of our president's local travelogs knows how very delightful they are.

We are hoping that on May twenty-seventh the McHenry County Legion will provide a program worthy of the occasion.

June third will be Dairy Day to lead off Dairy month in this county which owes so much to the dairy industry.

And June tenth is the annual meeting about which we have already told you. See you there.

MORE PROGRAMS

There will be other Sunday programs, of course, after the Annual Meeting, but they are not fully arranged, and we will have to ask you to keep watch of your local papers for that information. We assure you that all will be as good or better than last year's.

INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEETINGS

It has always seemed to us that the members might be interested in the large range of the subjects that the board must deal with. In these past three months, we have listened to reports on what is happening about the Palmer house in Crystal Lake; that an easement to reach the Hatch silo was being sought; on the feasibility of using Museum brochures to cut down on the work of the docents on such days as the latter are in short supply; then on bids for the brochures and delegating their printing to the lowest bidder; discussion of bids to repair and paint the cupola; discussion of bids to repair various artifacts; and discussion of the appeals to cities, towns and townships to be included in the revenue sharing distribution. These are but a small sampling of the items that consume the meeting time of the board.

CURATOR'S LETTER

A special note of thanks is due to the Museum Display Committee for their hard work in getting the museum ready for the 1979 opening on May sixth. They cleaned the museum from top to bottom and even created some new displays in the process. I think you will agree that they have done a fine job so don't miss the chance to enjoy the fruits of their labor first hand--come see for yourself.

As you know we will be highlighting various McHenry County communities at the museum on Sunday afternoons this summer. I would like to invite each of you, as members of the Historical Society, to get involved in one of these programs--they're very interesting, informative and a lot of fun .

For our seasonal opening on Sunday, May sixth, we will offer free admission to the museum and a special exhibit from Mrs. Margaret Szlachta of Woodstock. Mrs. Szlachta has an interesting collection of advertising and memorabilia from Woodstock which dates from the turn of the century. We think you will find it most interesting and look forward to seeing you on opening day.

Sincerely,
Mark Haggitt

NEW--AND VERY WELCOME HELP

A note from Dorothy McEachren informs us of really extra help. Norma D. Anderson of Woodstock, a new volunteer has been and will, devote her Tuesdays, from nine to five, typing acknowledgements and doing other typing and general office work for the society. While a new volunteer, she has been a member of the society before. Her help is extremely welcome. We just hope it inspires others!

NEW DATELINE

We hope you noticed our new dateline--not just spring, but May added. The idea was that of Ruth Cripe and we thought it a good one. Do you like it?

OUR ADVERTISERS

It has been our policy to publish a story about our advertisers during each year. We will begin with two of our new advertisers, the State Bank of Woodstock and the First State Bank of Harvard. Watch for the stories on our other advertisers in later issues of the Newsletter.

THE STATE BANK OF WOODSTOCK

During its 90 years of service to McHenry county, the State Bank of Woodstock has been on the Woodstock City Square.

Only five men have served as president. The fifth, Donald J. Cooney, assumed the presidency on February 7, 1979, succeeding Donald J. Still, president since 1964. The president before Still awas Herbert T. Cooney's father and the bank's president from 1931 until he was named chairman of the board in 1964.

Through the years the State Bank and its leaders have been involved in community affairs. Erastus E. Richards, president from 1889 when the bank was founded until 1916, was elected Woodstock Mayor in July of that year. Both he and Emilus C. Jewett, president from 1916 to 1931, instigated action that led to the construction of the Woodstock Opera House after building had stalled for a couple of years.

The Opera House grand opening was September 4, 1890, less than a year after the bank's opening on Nov. 29, 1889.

In the present community action to restore the Opera House to its former splendor, Don Still and Don Cooney have served and are serving in many organizations as directors or officers. For example, both occupied vital positions on the board of Memorial Hospital for McHenry County for a number of years.

The State Bank was originally on the north side of the square, across from the corner of the old courthouse. In 1910 it moved to its present site at Benton and East Jackson streets. It underwent major remodeling in 1950. then expanded twice later with its exterior appearance in the turn-of-the-century profile achieved in 1974.

Assets have grown steadily as the State Bank achieved a position of serving the rural community, Industry, business and family accounts.

When Herb Cooney became president in 1931, total resources stood at $1 million. When Cooney was honored for 50 years of service at the State Bank in 1952, total resources were $8 million.

In 1964 at the time of the bank's 75th anniversary, the bank's total resources were over $15 million. Today, the bank's total resources stand at $50 million, and the state bank is proud that it has the oldest Trust Department in McHenry County. Its service to all citizens with the specialized skills provided by a Trust Officer is distinctive.

FIRST STATE BANK OF HARVARD

Much of the story of the First State Bank of Harvard has been published in the book, Harvard Area 1829-1976, but that book is not well-known all over the county so we will risk the duplication.

This bank grew out of the Axtell and Palmiter general store, which made it a practice to keep money for people who had no method of safe guarding their wealth in their homes. Demand for this service became so great that Alonzo E. Axtell, and Mary, his wife decided to purchase a large safe as a repository for their customers' money. They also hired a sixteen year old boy, Frank Phelps, who would one day be vice-president of the bank which evolved, to be the night watchman. He slept

on a cot near the safe. The first "burglar alarm' that was installed was nothing more than a pail of water hung from the ceiling above the safe. A trip rope extended from the pail to Phelps' bed--some say to his big toe. In case of an intruder, he was to jerk the rope. The water would undoubtedly startle whomever it fell on and the clatter of the falling pail would awaken the Axtells who lived in the flat above the store. They could see what was going on by rushing to a railing guarding a square opening looking down on the safe. No report is available as to whether the alarm was ever used.

Alonzo Axtell came to Illinois from Friendship, New York. He started a mercantile business in 1858 in the location that is now the Richardson Pharmacy on North Ayer Street. He continued in the store until 1877 when he founded the Axtell Exchange bank, a private institution continuing in the banking business until his death in 1889.

Mrs. Axtell operated the bank for a few years until her son, Frank, became president in 1892 after having been a grain trader on the Chicago Board of Trade for fifteen years. He reorganized the bank as a state bank in 1909. Frank Axtell was a member of the American Bankers Association and the Illinois Bankers Association and was associated with the Chicago Board of Trade. He was married to Ceretha A. Austin, daughter of Pasco Austin of Woodstock. The Axtells had two children, a son, E. Lyle and a daughter Darlene, who died, unmarried in 1911.

E. Lyle Axtell joined his father in the bank in the early 1900s. On May twentieth, 1902, the Axtell Bank became the First State Bank with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, which with surplus and undivided profits of over ninety-seven thousand dollars gave a working fund of one hundred forty seven thousand dollars larger than that of any other bank in McHenry County at that time. Lyle Axtell became president on his father's death in 1922 and continued so until his own sudden death in 1955.

There had, of course been many remodelings and improvements of the bank building, among them, a night depository in 1932; first to discount retail merchants installment sales, October, 1942; lobby was air-conditioned for customers' comfort in August, 1949; a parking lot provided for customers in June, 1957 and a Drive-in window and an envelope deposity added in February, 1958.

Robert Goll had come to the bank in 1934 after previous experience in the banking business in Chicago and Milwaukee. He was a veteran of World War I. He continued to man the helm for the bank until he retired as chairman of the board in 1972. His many friends in Harvard were saddened to hear of his death this year.

Joseph Crabb is the second president of the bank since the days when the Axtells, themselves, were in charge of it. He is a native of Wisconsin, where he was a teacher for several years before becoming Register of Deeds for Kewanee County, a position he held for eight years. In 1948, he became Executive Vice-President of the State Bank of Kewanee. In 1957, he resigned to take the same place in the Harvard bank. He was named president of the bank in 1966.

In 1969 the bank moved to its handsome new building at 201-207 West Diggins. They had been ninety-two years at their previous location on Ayer Street, and the move caused nostalgia for many customers and other residents, too.

During his life in Harvard, Mr. Crabb has been active in affairs of civic and church interest. He served as chairman of the Citizens Advisory Council of School District Number 50; Treasurer of the Knights of Columbus; Vice-president of the Harvard Planning Commission; and Chairman of the McHenry County Board of Appeals. He is now chairman of the board as well as president and trust officer of the bank.

Other officers of the bank are Max Vandiver who has taken the place of William Johnston as Executive Vice-President and Cashier; Anthony DeMay, Assistant Vice-President; Shirley Sweatman, Assistant Vice President and Trust officer; D.R. McCauley, Assistant Cashier; and John L. McCammon, Assistant Cashier. Directors are A. A. Anderson, W.E. Burton, J.L. Crabb, H.A. Deneen, D.R. Hereley, J.R. Shields and W.E. Johnston and E.M. Schutt replaced with Wm. E. Sharp and Max Vandiver on the former gentlemen's retirement.

The First State Bank has grown in resources and liabilities from $1, 579,895.00 in 1921 to 10,665,756,60 in 1968; to 20,786,308.68 in 1976; to 26,432,795.89 as of December thirtieth in 1978.

AN ALDEN LETTER

You will remember that we had an appeal from a young man interested in postal things a few issues back. Too late for the February Tracer, he sent this material to Mark Haggitt, our curator.

He begins with a brief article on the Post Offices of Alden Township, and then grants us a look at a letter he was allowed to copy. The Tracer staff hopes someone will remember having heard of the Bills family, and will be willing to add to Mr. Zolno's information, either about the Bills family or other early Alden post office acitivity.

The Post Offices of Alden Township -

Michael S. Zolno

Alden Township is located in the northern part of McHenry county. It is bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the west by Chemung Township, on the east by Hebron Township, and on the south by Hartland Township. It's first settlers, Nathan and Darius Disbrow, came in the fall of 1836 from New York State.

Following is a list of postmasters:

Francis Wedgewood	1843-49
P. W. Lake	1849-1850
N. M. Capron	1850-58
George B. Andrews	1858-81
E.S. Smith	1881
F.S. Smith	-1921
L. Grant Nigh	1921-63
Elvin Gast	1963-67
Gerald Beard	1967-

What follows is a letter written by an early resident of Alden Township to a relative in Ohio. My research indicates that the Bills family at one time resided in Alden, New York. Does anyone have more information about the Bills family or other early post office activity?

Text of letter sent from Lucinda Bills of Alden, McHenry Co. IL. to Mrs. Rebecca Green of Salem, Ashtabula Co. OHIO

Alden Jan 10, 1851

Dear Aunt: I have been going to write to you for a year past but have never got about it in the first place we are well and happy I am keeping house for my father and have been for 5 years My two brothers are teaching school 20 miles from home They do not come home only once a month So you can see we are alone this winter and I almost feel alone in the world no mother or sister either I wish you could spare Laverna to come and spend one summer with me I hear she has been East for a visit, now do let her come and visit me and her brother Silas Johnson I should like him I know for I loved his little sister Malvina dearly Pa has a farm of 120 acres some of it

under good cultivation we have houses and waggons and other things such as sheep and other stock and are doing very well, but our wheat crop this year was almost a total failure we have fruit trees set out we had 10 apples this year and I think we shall soon raise our own fruit I think I shall know how to prize it if we do I have not had as many apples as I could eat at once since we lived here Sometimes I thought I would write to you to send us one barrel as you had them plenty but I did not know as it would be convenient for you so I did not wtite but you can rest assured they would taste good to us.

The cholera did not appear among us last summer but a year ago it was here There were several deaths from it My brother John had a very violent attack from which he has but just got able to work he was obliged to lay out of business for one year he has a wife and 3 children he is a farmer his farm joins ours we are in a healthy place and have excellent inhabitants mostly eastern people we have schools churches and other advantages as good here as anywhere My grandmother has been dead 3 years She died of old age She was almost 90 years of age.

I had let last year to visit you and our Herkimar friends but I could not go Pa thought he could not spare the money very well his crope were so poor, but I shall come some time the boys want to go and talk a great deal about it They are smart They are well educated and naturally smart enough you will think I am selfish because they are my brothers not so for we have reason to be proud of them.

There has been a great California excitement here for two year past but I think it is done, for some of our neighbours are there and cannot get back one man has just returned by begging his way through the States There was such an excitement that farms have been mortgaged which can never be redeemed and the country drained of money which will never be returned from California all for gold Some left families others took them along and have buried them on the route I have no desire for the gold regions not but what there is gold there but none of our acquaintances have been lucky and have lost their all I pity them very much.

I want to hear from you very much write whether you think you can ever visit us or not and how you are situated and all the particulars about your family I shall be impatient to hear from you

Yours affectionately Lucinda Bills

you must direct to Alden McHenry Co

Illinois

PLEAS FOR HELP

Or mayhaps, we shall call this part of The Tracer, either "Do you Have?" or "Would you Like to Donate?" Anyway, what we are hoping to find this time is one of the old stock certificates of the Oliver Typewriter Company. It is thought to have been organized around 1894-6, but neither the exact date nor whether stock was issued at once is known. Also, does anyone have either a whole or component parts of the artillery shells Oliver made under war contracts during World War I?

All our appeals to-day are in the war line. By any inconveivable chance does anyone have a pogomoggan? I understand it to be an Indian war club, either a stone or antler, secured to a wooden handle with thongs. It would be nice to add to the arrow collections and the banner stone.

There is also a picture that is a plea.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

The lovely young lady on the rear cover of the summer newsletter last year, Volune V, No. 1, we have been informed by her sister, Mrs. Evalyn Shenberger of Marengo, is Ella Shiltz. I believe her niece, Sally Eddy, called the information in.

Several people have identified the lovely Colonial home on the rear cover of the Winter Tracer. Mrs. Ray Murphy thinks it is the Fitzsimmons house in Bull Valley, about half way between Woodstock and Crystal Lake. She visited there often as a girl. A note from Mrs. Dorothy McEacren says Mrs. D.K. Adams, like Mrs. Murphy also from Woodstock, was another who identified the house, but does not say what Identification she made. Others called the museum, too.

Sometime ago--more than a year--we had a photo of Edward E. Ayer, son of the couple who founded the city of Harvard. With him, in the photograph, was a small boy, who according to the notation on the back, was his grandson, Hosmer Johnson. But nothing was known as to whether the little boy was still living, or had even grown up. We are informed that he did grow up, he attended Harvard University, getting both his bachelor's and master's degrees there. He served in the armed forces, the army, it is thought, in World War I. He married, after the war, Adelaide Stickney, daughter of Dr. Edwin Stickney of Arlington, Massachusetts. They had three children, their only son dying as a baby. As far as a distant cousin knows, he is still living.

ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOUT EARLY DAYS

All answers are taken from the 1885 History of McHenry County.

A. How much did the county pay for the land for "the poor farm"? $6000.00 for 113 acres.

B. How much per diem was the county assessor paid in 1838? $2.00

C. How many votes were cast in the county election in 1837? 115

D. In 1838, the county elected its first representative to the legislature? Who was he? Dr. Richard Murphy.

E. Who was the first sheriff?

We received an answer to this question--the only answer to come in. Ray Walkup called to say Christopher Walkup was the first sheriff, according to page 775 of the 1968 county history. The 1885 history says that Henry B. Steele was the first sheriff, in 1837. Looking up Christopher Walkup, we find that in 1837, he was postmaster for the township of Nunda's first post office, and deputy sheriff under Steele, who served until 1839, and was succeeded by Andrew B. Cornish. Then in 1840, Lake and McHenry county became separate counties instead of one, and Christopher Walkup was the first sheriff of McHenry county. I did not plan this as a trick question, but it turned out to be one!

QUESTIONS FOR NEXT TRACER

A. Who was the first Superintendent of Schools, then known as the School Commissioner?

B. Who was the first coroner?

C. The first presidential election in which our citizens voted was in 1844. How many votes do you suppose were cast in this county? Polk was elected.

DUES AND DUES NEWS

Leta Clark, membership chairman, asks if The Tracer can spare some space to urge members to pay their 1979-1980 dues without waiting for a bill. With the help of her sister, Miss Alice Clark, she sent out letters to all those who were delinquent in their 1978-1979 dues, and the response has been good but not complete. She would like to suggest that those who have not yet sent in these back dues, now include the 1979-1980 dues with them.

CORRECTION

Quite unintentionally, The Tracer removed a lot of hours from the records of those docents who worked so often last year to staff the County Historical Museum. Instead of hours in the article about the docents, it should have read times they worked. And since no one worked less than three hours each time, all those figures should be multiplied by three--forty-two hours for Alice and Frances Bailey and Dorothy Northrop; thirty-nine for Pat Williams; fifty-seven for Clara Vogel; thirty for Thresile Mulvenna and Avis Pankonin; thirty-three for Herman Pankonin. Sincere apologies to all these people.

INTERESTING STORIES GLEANED FROM OLD PAPERS

In looking for other material, co-editor Lucille Maguire recently came upon the following stories and thought others might also find them interesting. The first is from a Harvard Independent from 1906 and the second from one for 1916. We hope you enjoy them. The first was about the Harvard Railroad's birthday, and reads, "Fifty years ago the 4th of July the first locomotive engine pulled into Harvard, the exact date being July 4th, 1856. It was a big day in the history of this city, which soon became an important railway point. It took three hours to make the trip from Harvard to Chicago with the wood-burning locomotives which were in use in those days.

The growth of the city was stimulated to a great extent by the passing through of the railroad, at that time known as the Chicago, St. Paul and Fond du Lac, later the Wisconsin Division of the Chicago and Northwestern. Harvard was later made a division headquarters, machine shops and roundhouse being located here. The size of the railway yard here was for many years far in excess of that of any other city of its size on the system.

Historically.... WE ARE

Colby Motor Sales, Inc.

America's Oldest Car Dealer

....SINCE 1886

• CHRYSLER
• PLYMOUTH

Courtesy, confidence, consideration COLBY 61 N. MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE

815-459-9000

AUTHORIZED DEALER CHRYSLER MOTORS CORPORATION

DAILY 8 - 9 SATURDAY 8 - 5 SUNDAY 8 - 3

BIG FOOT GENERAL STORE

ANTIQUES

P.O. Address: Harvard, Illinois 60033

Big Foot, Illinois

FIRST STATE BANK of HARVARD

201-207 WEST DIGGINS • HARVARD, ILLINOIS 60033

PHONE 943-6441

Compliments of

Marengo Federal Savings and Loan Association

OFFICES:

MARENGO - WOODSTOCK - McHENRY

Andre's STEAK HOUSE

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCHES

11 A.M. - 2 P.M. MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

DINNER SERVED DAILY 4 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT

SUNDAYS NOON UNTIL 10 P.M.

FRIDAY FISH FRY - $2.50

Call: 815-678-2671

BANQUET FACILITIES FOR ALL OCCASIONS:

WEDDINGS SHOWERS REUNIONS RETIREMENTS
DANCES PROMS FASHION SHOWS, ETC.

½ MILE NO. RTE. 173 ON U.S. 12
RICHMOND, ILLINOIS

the State BANK A FULL SERVICE BANK of woodstock

We appreciate the chronicling, preservation and highlighting of McHenry County's heritage accomplished by dedicated members of the McHenry County Historical Society.

At the State Bank--on the Square in downtown Woodstock--we've been a part of that history since November 29, 1889.

"THE BANK WILLING TO MEET YOUR NEEDS"

State Bank of Huntley

10604 N. VINE • HUNTLEY, ILLINOIS 60142

According to this article which was published in June of 1906, plans were made to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the road. It was stated the improvement in the passenger service during those fifty years was nothing short of marvelous since the Harvard to Chicago trip could then be made in an hour and a half.

Curiosity sent Mrs. Maguire to the telephone where, upon calling the railroad station she was informed that it now takes an hour and thirty-two minutes to make the trip. When she asked why there did not seem to be more improvement, the agent explained that the equipment could do it in less but there are so many more stops--even in 1885, there were only four between Chicago and Harvard--and practically no place where it is safe for a train to build up speed, so that it is extremely unlikely the time will ever be bettered.

The second story about a Harvard and Woodstock citizen in World War I follows.

CAPT. BLODGETT IN LINE FOR CROIX DE GUERRE

Valiant Record Made by Harvard Medical Officer in France

"Harvard citizens, to whom all members of the Blanchard and Blodgett families are well known, are more than proud of the report that has lately reached this country of the valiant record made by Captain Pliny R. Blodgett, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Blodgett, and grandson of the late Dr. Pliny W. Blanchard and his wife.

An account of the heroic work accomplished by the medical detachment of Colonel John V. Clinnin's 130th Regiment, working at the front in an especially perilous position, was published in the Chicago Daily News of November 14th, and Captain Blodgett, who is in the detachment, is mentioned with others "who showed great heroism in remaining with and saving the wounded, disregarding their own safety."

Later reports cite the probability of their being given the coveted Croix de Guerre for their courage and noble service.

Although Captain Blodgett's residence was given as Woodstock, where his young wife and child reside, he was born in Harvard, receiving part of his education here, and has always retained associations of his youth, and has spent considerable time at the home of his grandparents in this city."

Captain Blodgett was the brother of Esther Blodgett who recently retired as owner and operator of Radio Station WMCW of Harvard.

1. This article was taken from Harvard Independent, Nov. 21, 1916; Issue #47, page 1

NOT "TEN LITTLE" BUT EIGHT PRETTY GOOD-SIZED INDIANS. THE PICTURE IS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN WOODSTOCK, BUT WHO THE "REDSKINS" WERE OR THE PURPOSE OF THEIR REGALIA IS UNKNOWN. CAN ANYONE HELP?

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 434 • 6422 MAIN STREET •
UNION, ILLINOIS 60180

Not-For-Profit Corporation
U. S. Postage
PAID
Union, Illinois 60180
Permit No. 9

Mr. & Mrs. A.C.Jenner
56 S. Walkup Ave.
Crystal Lake,Ill 60014

IF YOUR ADDRESS IS INCORRECT,
WON'T YOU MAIL US A CARD?